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"ASRINGTON

in OLFY TOWNSHIP

BERKS COUNTY

"hile in Camp near lettsgrove - (Pottstown)

Pom sylvania

Sept. 21 - 25 - 1777.

An saarcus by

Mrs. Jave Sunner Owen kein (Mrs. der. Paniciol Kuin)

Perent - Berks County Chapter
Henerary-Vice-Provident-Control D.A.R.

Upon presentation of columnical to timer of prize essay - Girl's High School -

rebruary 22 - 1909.

A few dates opparently everlacked in published washington's Itineraries.

from mr Keine.

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Author
(Poson)
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THE READING HERALD

Established 1881.

WILLIAM McCORMICK...... Editor and Proprietor

HERALD BUILDING, 13 N. 5TH ST.



READING, PA., FEBRUARY 22, 1909.



WHEN G. W. VISITED US

HE CAMPED NEAR BY

AND DROPPED IN UPON US ONCE IN A WHILE—MRS. KEIM TELLS WHAT SHE LEARNED ABOUT HIM DOWN THE OLEY TOWNSHIP WAY—SOME NEW LIGHT.

At the Washington Birthday celebration at the Girls' High School today Mrs; DeB. R. Keim made this excellent address:

The day we celebrate is the one hundred and seventy-eighth anniversary of the birth of George Washington on his father's plantation in Westmoreland County, at George's Creek, a tributary of the lower Potomac River, on the Virginia side, about 80 miles below the magnificent capital of the republic which today commemorates his name and public services. A handsome monument erected by Congress marks the place of his birth.

The story of Washington's boyhood, youth and manhood is, or should be, known to every American, old or young. He was 45 years of age when manoeuvring his army up the eastern side of the Schuylkill River after the unfavorable turn of the battle on the Brandywine and preceding the drawn conflict at Germantown.

It was during this interval of strategic operations that Washington is known to have been in camp from Sept.

Zept [1777



21 to 26, 1777, in Pottsgrove township, about four miles southeast of now Pottstown, Montgomery County, about five miles from the county line of Berks, eight or nine nites from Oley Valley and about 20 miles below Reading.



On September 19, General Washington in a letter to the President of the Continental Congress mentione "now repassing the Schuylkill at Parker's ford (23 miles below Reading) with the main body of the Continental Army.

As soon as crossed, in an hour or two, though deep and rapid, I shall march them as expeditiously as possible towards Fatland, Swedes and other fords where the enemy will most probably cross".

The men were without blankets mostly bare
feet and without feed. Owing to the severe rains

the Army as separated from its baggage, and supply

train, powder wet and all in a most deplorable

condition.

"ashington marched his exhausted troops "as far so "Reading furnace on French creek for security against the enemy".

mus Koinis Moslenghou is ally Foreign Ou September, 21 1907 the Chester County Pennery Nousa rrected a moun-ment, dedecated by the resulylvama society Soupy the Revolution on the degend " The fortherest culoud poul reached in the kutiste muasion og The Mhem Colomes dung the Revolutioning Mar September 21-23 17/27 The mounted of gracity Stands report Foundance Time Square and Commen orales the high water much in the murely wante such ford Com Mere nos a publiched Jes and militing and Cone display.

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Swede's Ford.

At Warwick furnace, also on French creek,

N. part of Chester Creek County, he proposed to refit.

French Creek enters the Schuylkill at Phaenixville here
the British still on the best side of the Schuylkill
moved from White Horse Tavern down the road to

Washington having crossed threw his entire force, shattered as it was, on their front.

on September 20, P.M. the American Army broke camp and marched to the Trappe-Mentgemery Co.-

10 miles W.N.W. of Norristown, 2 miles from now Gollege Station. Earlsede y the Schriftell

On September 21, A.M. it encapped within 4 miles of Pottsgrave (Pottstown). The advance of the British was then at French Greek, on the West Side of the

Schuylkill, marching rapidly towards Reading.

It is intereshing former kinn parent set

Leally on September 21 1907, frequence
after the ment mentioned here may
declicated millipulated Ceremone
at Phoening welle (monthly ground
orect) a surrounney formed to

transport hour in the surrounded

warney reached by the British

The Veteraphonopy were the second of a conceined the inlease a mount Ment und former governer Peremporter gehanner the address, tabler neviews The operations of the tends Will, we course you head the ford Have reached the Medernment infomptonist allamed by the persolution of the mederal of Spenting the governor Sept 21 1797 the governor Dard " Howe more bedref Mitto row and he left The poul where this stone the rung moved by Valley Forge and rucounfred! Moon the frances of the Schiglkell Extending Pra all and hove of prench Treek Howes head house

In a letter of September SI. "askington said
" this induced me to believe they had two objects in
view, one to get around the right of my army, the
other to detach parties to Reading where we have
considerable stores. To frustrate those intentions
moved the Army winn this side of the river to this
lists (noar letternove) determined to keep made with
them. The general mentioned 1000 of his men being
barefeeted. Among the Washington ManuscriptSin the
library of Congress is a letter dated Sept. SI,1772
near Tatland Ford on Schuylkill.

On the night of September 22, "ashington had advices that the British crossed the Schuylkill at to Moutelove off oute) Gordon's (now Pheenixville) and Fatland (short distable Valley Forge.)

On this same date a manuscript letter exists in Library of Congress written in camp 28 miles from Philadelphia on the Peading Read.

A Miliam Frimes are the high General spent the Bufullow Heneral spent parts the higher before had he head quarter Met comer y the white thorse spad and rutto the sound of the Light Lufurly and the Hessians under General Stemment de the present by white kryp. The secure hard her quer. ten al the house of Tredenak Benzar vulle Med side ythe Comer about the Comer Stores. Hosseter when hved un mour street Mest g Metts was an 1841, 85 years y uge left a record the weare Buffel mussaine at I able tour girls que

On the same day he wrote to Colonel
Hamilton of his staff unless regitted he could not
"go on with the campaign which would be the ruin of
'the Army if not America", and ordered him to procee
at once to Philadelphia secure all supplies he coul
find and remove horses from the bity.

On September 23, "ashington obtain a definite information that the enemy was on the Last side of the Schuylkill having crossed September 22, at Fatland and other near fords, and moving toward Phila.

A letter of this date was written in "Garm on Gobuylkill, 34 miles from Phila. (34 miles from Reading). On this day at his "camp near Pottsgreve" "ashington was also informed that Congress had adjourned Sept. 18, on the approach of the British, toward Philadelphia to Lancaster, where it met September 27.

in fruit opposite, on heroad where accostedly there was uz. They told, us to zo Aegulors Coming up the road Me looked and numbers The governor then graphic cally described the refreat ofthe Buteste to Phela crossy the selecticall at boardous Ford now Ment Clare of the left out the sede of the sed of the sede of the sed o grande from the Falls of neucli Creek quarries 6 feet high and bearsthe uneplise above given, The recount age beautiful The old touchand the remodeled nos Commelles? hend queles while whe seu Masey bu

The same day it adjourned to York on the "est side of the Susquehenna, where it met September 30. Fere Congress remains juntil the British evacuated Philadelphia the following May.

After a council of "er it was decided to move the Army towards Philadelphia on September 24, expecting to form a junction with Continental forces ordered from Peekskill, along the Hudson and some in New Jersey militia. The pickets advanced on that day but always militia. The pickets advanced on that day but washington and not move head quarters judging from a letter written by him, dated Sept. 26, 1777 in camp near Pettsgrove.

A second letter a dated in "Camp on the Schuyl-Kill 34 miles from Philadelphia" (Last of Parkerford) shows his location same night.

In this letter to General Putnam he refers to the British General Fowe, marching high up the Schuvliil to turn or flank him, but suddenly countermarched for

Philadelphia .



Lis Callignove frating Comp

READING HIS MAIN DEPOT.

From the point Washington covered the most; feasible routes of direction toward the rich townships of now Douglass, Colebrookdale, Earl and Oley in southeastern Berks, and his main depot at Reading, besides being in strategic position to give battle in case the British should attempt to capture that town.

The vital importance of Reading is shown by the fact that in retiring from the field on the Brandywine Washington pointed his column to Parkerford, where he placed the Schuylkill betwen himself and Lord Howe in pursuit.

The two armies took up a race toward Reading on parallel lines, Washington holding himself prepared to defend the place and its valuable stores to the last extremity.

Beyond an artillery duel from hills near Phoenixville and opposite with the river between, Lord Howe made no attempt to cross and attack.

Evidently conscious of the peril of getting too far out of reach of a safe defensive and the danger of having his communication interrupted, the British general suddenly countermarched over his outward route, crossed the Schuylkill near Norristown and advanced toward Philadelphia, which he occupied Sept. 26, the day Washington broke camp near the Berks line and resumed the offensive.

IN TOUCH WITH SUPPLIES.

During the five days spent recuperating and refitting his somewhat disorganized and exhausted troops in Pottsgrove township, Washington was naturally in constant touch with his main depot distant but a single day's haul. The most direct route for his wagon trains to reach that point was



Philadelphia, his Oley headquarters would be not over 35 or 46 miles distant by main highway.

VALLEY FORGE WAS NEARER.

After the indecisive battle of Germantown, owing to the proximity of White Marsh to the British outposts, Washington concluded to retire to Valley Forge instead of Oley, the latter being too remote for harassing the enemy by sudden movements. The former distant enough against surprise and topographically easily defended, he considered possessing better advantages of position. For this reason Valley Forge bordering the fighting zone, instead of Oley Valley and abundance, was chosen during the winter of 1777-78.

It would not be carrying inference too far to suppose Washington to have made a reconnoissance toward, if not into Reading. Although such an event would, in all probability, have been chronicled in some way by the townspeople as to Reading, although left to the uncertainty of tradition by country folks as to Oley. Among several of the old families of Oley the presence of foraging parties from Washington's camp at Valley Forge has been handed down in well defined forms. There is also documentary evidence to the same effect. This shows that Oley township was a region of expeditions from Washington's army at Valley Forge, not over one camp distant.

This appears from a letter written in January, 1778, by John Lesher, iron master of Oley, to the Executive Councitl. It manifests, however, a spirit of patriotic resignation. The writer refers to "a number of Continental troops and wagons taking eight tons of hay, destroying apples sufficient to make 10 hogsheads of cider, eating up his pasture, burning fences, etc.," and himself "purchasing two beeves at one shilling per pound to answer their immediate want of provisions."

SUPPLIED ARMY WITH FOOD.

He continues: "At several other times I have supplied detachments of the army with provisions." He men-

HA.



tions a party of foragers "taking 14 head of cattle and 4 swine, which was all he had for the workmen for carrying off his from works, especially as there was great call for iron for public use."

His complaint was of the forcible and wasteful methods employed "when the strongest exertions of economy and frugality ought to be practiced by all ranks of men, thereby the better to enable us to repel the designs of a daring enemy who are now in our land." As a remedy he suggested the "appointment of judiclous men in any township to apportion the demands according to the circumstances of every farmer and general benefit of the whole."

During the years of Trenton, Princeton, Brandywine, Germantown, Valley Forge and preparations for the pursuit of the British, culminating in their defeat at Monmouth in June, 1778, Berks County was an important center of surply and Reading of stores.

In a letter of date but three days before Washington encanped near the Berks line, when the third and fourth classes of militia of Berks were called into service incident to the forward movement toward Philadelphia, the statement is made by Col. Morgan: "There is at present a great quantity of powder and other stores belonging to the states in this town (Reading) and there are two companies now of said classes mounting guard over said stores."

FEARS FOR POWDER STORES.

The quantity of powder was so great that fears were entertained in event of fire it would "tear the town to pieces and destroy the whole body of inhabitants."

It is a matter of interesting record that Washington did pass a night in Reading during his presidency on his way from Philadelphia, then the capital, to Carlisle, to inspect the army in rendezvous preparatory to its march to the scene of riot in Western Pennsylvania.

On this occasion a parade and pass-



ing review were had on Penn Square and Peter Nagle, a hero of the Revolution, known to Washington, gave a reception in his honor at his residence on North 5th street, which stood on the now vacant lot on the south side of the post office building, owned by John H. Keim from about 1842 to 1855, and later by J. Lawrence Getz, one of Reading's noted editors and member of the National House of Representatives of the 40th, 41st and 42d Congresses, where he was highly respected and an honor to his constituents.

Another interesting incident associated with one of Reading's citizens was the presence of Captain Peter Nagle, with his eldest daughter, Elizabeth, at a reception in Philadelphia given by President Washington.

ASSOCIATIONS OF WASHINGTON.

There can be no plausible ground of objection to the County of Berks adding to the numerous interesting associations of the Revolutionary struggle and her contributions to its success, the well sustained inference that General Washington visited Oley Valley between Sept. 21 and 21 1777, prior to advancing toward the British at prior Philadelphia. Also that he received large supplies of cannon, shot, muskets, rowder, medical supplies, kets, etc., from Reading, and flour, meat and forage from the county. During the British occupation of Philadelphia prominent familles took refuge at Reading.

The provincial treasure was also carried there for safety. It was also visited in passing between the New England States and military posts on the Hudson to York, where Congress was sitting, by the most distinguished patriots in civil life, and the Continental army.

The Berks County Chapter, therefore, represents one of the most interesting regions of hallowed memories in the War of Independence in the Middle States of the glorious Thirteen.

frequently



10. 6 WINS FSSAY PRI7F

MISS STROHECKER

AND SHE GETS BEAUTIFUL GOLD EMBLEM-MISS BRANE IS GIVEN HONORABLE MENTION-D. A. R. HOLDS ANNUAL CONTEST FOR

STUDENTS OF HIGH SCHOOL.

The D. A. R. prize at the firls' High School this morning was won by Helen Strohecker, No. 6. It was a beautiful gold emblem with conventionalized rays centering in blue enamel.

Grace Brane, who was No. 5, receiv-

ed honorable mention.

Today was the one great day at the Girls' High School, the annual D. A. R. exercises honoring the great American, George Washington.

A SYMPHONY OF COLOR.

Nothing had been left undone to make the celebration complete in every particular by the society, and, assisted by the efficient committee appointed by Miss Mayer, the principal, from the senior class, had everything in readiness for the exercises they began at 2 this afternoon.

The whole building was a symphony

in patriotic colors.

A large picture of Washington was hung at the front of the platform and draped with the blue field of the flag. An American flag stood guard at each

A large American flag draped in the arch over the platform.

CLASS PENNANTS DRAPED.

Behind all of the pictures and over the statuary and friezes were draped and arranged still other flags and bunting. Class pennants of the class of 1909 were also shown at prominent places.

Large flags stood in each corner. Bunting was arranged along the balcony, the railing of the stairways and over the blackboard.

Ushers had been assigned to the various floors of the building and they seated the people very satisfactorily.

The A, B and C classes were seated on the main floors, while D class sat on the balcony. The visitors seated in the two sections on the south side of the room and on the west side of the balcony, where chairs had been arranged.

The speakers of the day sat on the

platform with Miss Mayer.

The exercises opened with a prayer by Rev. L. M. Erdman. Three delightful musical numbers given as only our girls of the High School can give them.

The school sang the "Slumber Song," Miss Mary A. Wisler played "Tarantelle" on the piano and the choir sang "Waltz Song."

MR. KEPPELMAN MAKES SPEECH.

John A. Keppelman was then introduced. He had a splendid address.

Miss Miriam A. Baker sang a beau-

tiful solo, "Three Green Bonnets," and also "Life."

Miss Lottie Kantner also sang "The

Arrow and the Song" in finished style.
Then Mrs. Keim, the chapter regent, made the address. She gave the usual bright account of D. A. R. work Reading. Mrs. Keim is honorary vice president general of the national society and spoke with her usual grace. Her address appears elsewhere.

The exercises ended with the audience singing "America."



PRIZES WON BY ESSAYIST

HELEN STROHECKER CEIVES MEDAL FROM D. A. R. AND BRANE HONORABLE GRACE

MENTION IN CLASS EXERCISES.

The annual Washington Day exercises in the Girls High school, under the auspices of the Daughters of the American Revolution, was attended by an audience which completely filled the large assembly room. Classes A, B. and C were seated in the main auditorium and Class D occupied the balcony. sections on the south side of the large room were reserved for the visitors. In the aisles were placed camp chair for the accommodation of other visitors. It was the time of the awarding of the \$10 gold medal in the essay contest between members of Class A. These were the contestants: Misses Margaret Miller, Grace Brane, Mary Saylor, Elizabeth Hartman, Helen Fritch, Edith Hafer, Helen Strohecker. The prize was won by Miss Strohecker and Miss Brane re-ceived honorable mention. "The Hessians of the American Revolution," was the subject treated.

Flags and bunting were used in the tasteful decorations, while a large por-trait of Washington in a framework of flags and greens, occupied a conspicious place on the platform. Members of the senior class served as ushers. On the platform, with the principal, Miss Mary A. Mayer, were seated Mrs. deB. Ran-dolph Keim, regent of the D. A. R., and the committee of judges—George W. Wagner, Rev. Lee M. Erdman, John A.

Keppelman, The exercises opened promptly at 2 o'clock, with prayer by the Rev. Mr. Erdman, pastor of the St. Thomas Re-formed church. The "Slumber Song" was excellently rendered by the school, under the direction of Miss Lizzie I. McGowan, This was followed by a piano solo, "Tarantelle," by Miss Mary A. Wisler, after which the "Waltz Song" was rendered by the girls choir, composed of 35 voices.

MR. KEPPELMAN SPEAKS.

John Arthur Keppelman, Esq., the speaker of the afternoon, was attentively listened to and heartily applauded He said, among other things:

"It may not be altogether gratifying to women to have the virtues and the achievements of men forever thrust upon them. Indeed, concurrently with the growing tendency of the daughters of Eve to consider themselves-and justly so in many ways—the equals of the sons of Adam, it is inevitable that they should assert, with a sense of righteous indignation, that they, too, have a class

of the great, their own heroines

"It is quite natural, therefore, that in the eelebration of the anniversary of a great man, there should be in the heart of every woman, not only an appreciation of the celebrity himself but a failing of unide that should self, but a feeling of pride that she is able to point to the achievement of some woman, which to her at least,

may be translated into terms of equiva-

lent greatness.
"In taking this attitude, however, "In taking this attitude, however, do women really understand what they are celebrating when they join in the praises of a great man? Let me here remind you that it is a particular kind of great man which is being celebrated today.

"Roughly speaking, there are two

"Roughly speaking, there are are their kinds of great men. Those who are recognized as great because of their ability to accomplish large results, regardless of the methods adopted in such accomplishment; men who have injected into their work no character, in the moral sense, neither honesty, honor or principle, but who have everlastingly acted upon the single be-lief that the end justifies the means. Conspicious in this class are Caesar and Napoleon.

THE BETTER CLASS.

"This class has nothing whatever in that other splendid class of which Washcommon with and exemplary ington and Lincoln, are to all Americans the acknowledged leaders. To this latter class character is everything, achievement disassociated from character, nothing. To the members of this class honor and honesty are ends in themselves and not merely means to an end. As was well expressed by a recent President of the United States: 'I would rather be right than be President,' they do not set before themselves a goal which with unyielding resolution they strive to attain at all and every hazard: they are fundamentally and everlastingly honest and they go wherever the strict exercise of that virtue may bear them. It is this latter kind of great men whose birthday is being celebrated today, Washington was pre-eminently a man of character.

"Do women really understand then to what they are paying homage when they laud the man of character? Do they really appreciate what a trementhey really appreciate what a tremendously important part they themselves have played in the building of that character and the preparation of it for law and enduring action? Do they really grasp the fact, and a vital fact it is, that their contribution to the man character is his lofty moral tone, which at bottom, is the very character itself? My friends, character is not found ready-made. It is neither purchasable nor easily acquired. It is a structure of brick, upon brick, which by assistance and restraint, encouragement, discouragement and forceful discipline, is gradually molded into a form capable and fitted for active accomplishment.



who, my friends, does the building: Surely not the man himself. To be sure in some rare instances men have been so much the masters of their own fate as to be able to make themselves in spite of extraneous influences.

"But not so, my friends, with the man of character. He is inevitably the product of his times and the atmosphere in which he was trained.

A TRIBUTE TO WOMEN.

"It is women, my friends, who do the building. It is women, and women alone, who give moral tone to men, who keep them lodged in paths of lofty moral purposes. Take, for instance, the character of Washington, distinctive for its inflexible resolution, inspiring moral ideals, unconquerable determination, patient self-restraint, untiring application and proportionate and just self-esteem. Whence came a character of such construction? It is simple to find an answer when we look at the two splendid women in his life, his mother, Mary, and his wife, Martha. The former, unusual in her adherence to a strict standard of honor, industrious to a high degree, far from well educated because of lack of opportunity, but with exceptional vigor of intellect, strength of resolution and of inflexible firmness wherever principle was concerned. Could any woman have been better equipped for parental government and guidance, so admirably adapted, to the training of the youthful mind to wisdom and vir-tue? The latter, a woman of unusual loveliness and charm of character, in which were joined those amiable qualities and Christian virtues which best adorn and become women, and a gentle dignity which inspired respect, and in her later life even reverence. She was unostentatious and magnanimous, and, above all, like the mother, in that she was devoted to matters of principle for their own sake. It was from these sources that Washington first learned, and afterward maintained that high standard of Christian character, which not only equipped him for a successful stablishment of the cause of political equality and individual liberty, but which has afforded the highest type of attern for the national character here-

"Do you, my friends, fully understand hat I mean? By no means do I wish

you to interpret my meaning as being anything so low as that the grand function of women is a mere assistance to the development of the character of men. I mean that in celebrating the anniversary of the man of character you should remember that such a man is alike the embodiment of the highest ideals of men and the loftiest aspirations of women, and that if in the nature of things it does not fall to the lot of women to step so prominently into the life of action, their sphere of influence, the quiet and patient development of noble character in men, is a thing which should be foreibly magnified in any celebration of the achievements of that character."

THE WINNER ANNOUNCED.

Miss Miriam Baker sang very effectively "Three Green Bonnets" and "Life." A vocal solo, entitled "The Arrow and the Song," was rendered by Miss Lottie M. Kantner, accompanied by Miss Grace Barbey.

George W. Wagner, acting as chair-

George W. Wagner, acting as chairman of the judges, announced that Miss Helen Strohecker had won the medal, which was handed to her by Mrs. Keim. Miss Grace Brane was given honorable mention. Miss Helen Fritch, one of the contestants, was unable to be present, owing to illness. Mr. Wagner stated that all the essays were worthy of commendation.

Miss Strohecker is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin B. Strohecker, 39 North Ninth street.

Miss Brane is a daughter of Rev. Dr. and Mrs. C. I. B. Brane, 519 North Ninth street.

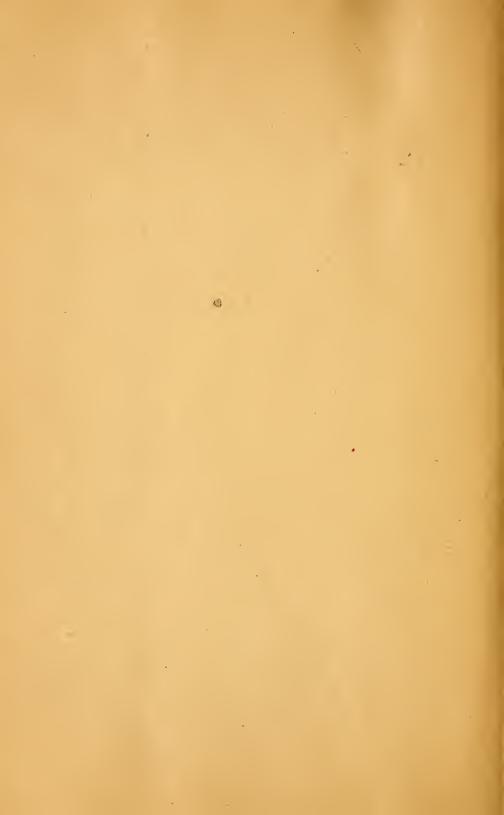
Mrs. Keim, the Regent, delivered an interesting address on "General Washington in Berks County." It was an excellent effort and closely followed by the audience.

The exercises closed by the singing of "America," the audience standing during the rendition of the last stanza.

WASHINGTON IN BERKS.

In presenting the medal to the successful essayist, Mrs. Keim read an interesting paper on "General Washington in Berks County." She said, in the course of her address:

(see alsembere)



the waster of the water. ("6" 116 Marie 110)



\$10 FOR MEMORIAL HALL

At Saturday's meeting of the Berks County Chapter, D. A. R., there were 44 members present and there were many interesting features.

The music was unusually fine. The Haage quintet sang charming German songs. The quintet is composed of: George D. Haage, August Bischoff, Robert Bischoff, Leon Bettig and Edward Schumann.

The chapter voted \$10 to be given to Memorial Continental Hall fund at the time of the dedication. Each state will give a sum of money at that time,

The papers of Mrs. H. A. Acker, who is to become a member of the chapter, were passed upon. The resignation of Mrs. William Purdy, because of removal to another city, was received.

The refreshments were appropriate to Washington's Birthday. There was a cherry in the centre of each ice and stand tart hatchets were served.

